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LABOUR ORGANISER

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THE LABOUR ORGANISER

EDITOR: A. L. WILLIAMS

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PRICE FIVEPENCE

An Industrial Experiment

AS every schoolboy knows, the Labour Party was formed because the trade unions made up their minds to enter politics independently of the Tory and Liberal parties.

The new party was not simply a trade union body. It was a federation of trade unions and of three small socialist organisations which were active at the beginning of this century. Many of the socialists were, of course, trade unionists, and their agitation within the unions had done much to awaken them to the need for an independent Labour Party.

If the socialists supplied the drive the trade unions certainly provided the means which made the Labour Party an important political force in a relatively short time.

Solid Foundation

Even to-day, after six years of a majority Labour Government and with Labour as the only alternative to the existing Government, the trade unions still form the solid foundation upon which the party is based, though conditions have changed considerably in the past fifty years. It was not until 1918 that the Labour Party opened its ranks to individual members, and these are now numbered in hundreds of thousands and they are the people who carry on the day-to-day work of the party in over 600 constituencies.

This development has caused changes in the relationships between the party and the trade unions, though nationally the unions are still the dominant voice, their nominees form the strongest group in the Parliamentary

Labour Party and they provide most of the money for the party's activities.

In the areas of old-established industry, too, the unions continue to play the major role in the local parties, though perhaps not as energetically as previously. In the newer industrial areas, however, the position is rather different. There, trade unionism hasn't the same firm hold on the workers, and the links between the trade union movement and the Labour Party are weaker than where there is a strong tradition of industrial organisation.

Labour Strongholds

In the old Labour strongholds General Committees of Constituency Labour Parties usually have a majority of trade union delegates, but elsewhere trade union delegates too often are only a small minority. Sometimes this is due to a neglect of the trade unions by the local parties, but more often it is the result of changes in the character of industry.

Improved transport facilities have not only made possible the spread of industry into new districts, but also they have enabled employers to recruit their workers from a very wide area, a development that has been accentuated by the housing shortage. Where once workers made an effort to live near to their place of employment, nowadays it is common for them to live miles away.

The position of trade union branches is changing. They used to be made up of members who lived and worked in the same locality, but this is ceasing to be the case. Now, members will belong to a local branch though employed in another district; others will belong to a branch catering for the work-people at their place of employment, even though they live a considerable distance away.

Many trade unions have recognised the decline in the importance of the territorial branch by the establishment of union machinery at the workshop level. But the Labour Party, because primarily it is an electoral organisation, bases itself locally on territorial constituencies for parliamentary purposes and on local authority areas for local government purposes.

Weakened Ties

The decline of the trade union branch inevitably has weakened the ties between the local parties and the trade union movement: apart from the fact that the normal trade union branch meeting is poorly attended, a large part of its members may live in some other constituency, and many of the trade unionists who are local electors may belong to branches outside of the constituency. This is especially so of London and the other great conurbations.

In many places the formal affiliation of a trade union branch to a Constituency Labour Party is no guarantee of any real association between its members and the local Labour parties. Also, the long distances so many workers have to travel and the increasing number of married women in employment make contact with the workers in their own homes increasingly difficult.

New Appointment

It was to meet this problem that the Labour Party's National Executive decided, as an experiment, to appoint an Industrial Organiser, Mr. John Hill. At present Assistant Regional Organiser in London and Middlesex, Mr. Hill has had considerable trade union experience in the engineering industry and has been a constituency agent as well as a party organiser in Lancashire and Cheshire and Northern Ireland.

He will work in metropolitan Essex, the site of many modern industrial undertakings and containing large residential areas. His duties will include recruiting members in the factories and seeing that they are linked up with the local parties where they live, making contact with the trade union factory machinery and bringing it closer to the Labour Party in the area. Also, he will encourage the active interest of trade union branches and their members in the work of the local parties.

If this new method of approach proves successful it is likely that the National Executive Committee will make further appointments, because it understands that the success of the Labour Party in the future, as in the past, depends upon the active support of ordinary working people.

Small Lotteries and Pools Tax Plan

Mr. J. Howard asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he is aware that the Special Commissioners of Income Tax upheld an appeal by a football supporters' club against tax assessments on a football pool run by the club; and how far this decision will be followed by the Inland Revenue in other similar cases.

Mr. H. Brooke: Yes. The football pool in this case was organised on the basis that a specified percentage of the sum received from each competitor would be paid as a gift to the football club. The Special Commissioners have held that this donation element formed no part of the receipts to be taken into account in computing for Income Tax purposes the profits of the trade of promoting the pool. This decision will be accepted by the Inland Revenue as governing all cases where a football pool or small lottery is run by a supporters' club or other society on the basis that a stated percentage or fraction of the cost of each ticket or chance will be given to a club or body established and conducted wholly or mainly for one or more of the purposes specified in subsection (1) of Section 1 of the Small Lotteries and Gaming Act, 1956.

Hansard, Friday 14th December, 1956.

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ADOPT A PARTY 'HOUSE STYLE'

HAVE you ever considered the need for a recognisable house style in Labour Party literature and activities? Have you ever felt the lack of it or do you consider that the degree to which we have it at the moment is more than sufficient?

Compare, for instance, the Labour Party badge on the front of the diary with the one to be found on the title page inside and the one on the front of your membership card. They make a very strong point when viewed together. In these days of television and high pressure advertising surely such wide differences in a basic symbol are not in our own interests?

A Personality

I believe that in a Party which is expanding fast there is a growing need for the Party machine to have a personality which is readily recognisable, and this is best expressed **visually** in a house style. It is up to the Head Office to provide a clear efficient fountain-head of style, which is sufficiently flexible to bear modification locally without being wholly transformed. I think our organisation could well use the pride and stimulation which this would afford.

A personal house style for us would be the result of a well planned design policy and a logical consistent approach to all our visual material. Admittedly, it cannot be done as things stand at present but the system would not be difficult to introduce. It would give immediate identity to our varied publicity and activities and its orderly visual presentation would serve to emphasise the wide backing we command instead of reflecting upon the personal efforts of a handful of the immediately concerned people.

Disguise Propaganda

There is, of course, always the point made that with much of our material we find it necessary to disguise it in order that it may be read before the 'Vote Labour' or slogan is forced home. To my mind this merely reinforces the necessity for a house style in-as-much as the exception would be far more likely to be readily accepted by those who

How display
can help to
sell our policy

WILLIAM TIMMS

would immediately disregard the other material with its recognisable source.

It would help local people considerably in that by the recommendation of a group of type faces and an indication for style we could lay the foundation for a broad pattern of a job and give local agents and workers a head start. For example we have in the last few years had a tendency to use the Condensed Grotesque sans serif face for display purposes, it being a good solid forthright face without unnecessary embellishments. Now that it has just become available for machine setting in Monotype a quick adoption of it on a wider basis might serve us very well.

From Scratch

Much of the difficulty which arises at the moment in the production of local material springs from the fact that it must be thought up completely from scratch. Under the house style system the main character of the material would be recognised as reflecting the Labour Party as a whole and the substance of it recognised as local.

It was to this end that in 1954 I worked out a series of miniature layouts and line drawings from which agents could either work directly or could use as a visual aid in discussions with printers. They have been used, but not as widely as I would have hoped. One of the main criticisms of them was that there was not room on them for a lengthy address! Perhaps early next year when we send out specific forms to teams of helpers enquiring into the effects of our publications and their efficiency, we may learn more accurately what the needs of agents and helpers are in this respect.

Only recently there was a request to the Head Office for a journalist to go out to a

by-election. When the offer was made of a layout man it was explained that there was really no justification or call for this as what was needed was merely the assessment of what a local printer could turn out within his limitations and some general guide as to what sort of address might be attempted!

In many cases local parties do not feel that they can afford extra people from Head Office to assist with layout, drawings, etc., but I personally feel that the Party cannot afford not to. Ideally a by-election team of three or four people with a fair amount of authority from Head Office could greatly assist and speed up the production of local material after a very short stay.

An Artist

It is only recently that we have sent an artist with a journalist, but I think that the people on the spot would testify to the increased efficiency. Were this to happen as a regular routine there would be a more regular standard in by-election specials and locally produced material in spite of local difficulties which are bound to arise.

To return to the subject, when I refer to house style, I do not mean the repetition of a series of particular characteristics and the rigid adherence to a formula. I mean the creation of a family likeness in the cross-section of material produced and a steadying of standards over the areas which are geographically very widespread. It would certainly give a unity to the diverse reading material which is produced all over the country and would encourage the corporate spirit which exists within our organisation.

A very large amount of work and thought has gone into the production of the new *Socialist Digest* so that it may have a house style of its own and preserve a following sequence over the months. Some of our other material also has a sameness, but I fear that it is the result of utilising the printer who submits the lowest quote and printing on the cheapest paper. Whereas this is the most economical way of providing material for local parties it does nothing to maintain standards or reflect favourably on the character of the Party.

In many ways the Party notepaper which I believe was printed on coloured stock at the suggestion of Jim Middleton was a serious attempt at the formation of a house style in the most modest terms. Later a very sound code for printed matter was set out in 'Soldiers of Lead' for the guidance of local parties. The Party letter-heading was also redesigned and the publicity material that

went out during those years had more of a family likeness than is to be seen to-day.

The application of a house style if we can make the decision and evolve one would be widespread and would cover such diverse material as outdoor signs, banners, party badge, letter-heads, postcards, stick labels and display material, exhibition stands, shop fronts and packaging and compliment slips, cheques, postal franking, besides the obvious applications of publications, reports, TV work, Press advertisements, leaflets, pamphlets, window bills, show cards, business cards and possibly vans.

What can a house style mean to you locally though, before these greater plans are mooted and worked out?

I would like to give an example of the way in which the acceptance of a house style by your local party might help considerably in the preparation of notices and similar material for circulation. If, for instance, all the display lines and punch words were copied from the same typewriter face that the rest of the material was typed in but scaled up in size it would not only give an excellent guide to amateur helpers in their homes and preserve a unity in the posters that were displayed, but could be similarly supplied to professional ticket writers or the usual suppliers of poster material to your local party thus giving considerable finish and polish to quite work-a-day notices.

Lettering and letter forms are always extremely difficult for non-professionals to cope with and produce a reasonable and polished result, but the difference between deficiencies in the work when copying a roman or grotesque face and copying, say, such a sympathetic face as 'typewriter', would make their own point.

Similarly, the setting out of the typed matter on the sheet can have quite a considerable impact for the small amount of extra effort and paper involved. I feel almost rash enough to make suggestions with regard to the controlled use of what have come to be by right our colours, but I am saved by the limits of the page.

I have been reading with great interest an article by Alec Davis in the November issue of Design on House Style; and much of what he says with regard to commercial firms and organisations has a direct bearing on us. If you are interested in the subject I would recommend it most heartily since it gives many photographs of material showing how various organisations have tackled the problem.

Increase Our Members' Subs?

Constituency Labour Parties will pay 9d. a member affiliation fee to Head Office in 1957. This 50 per cent increase was approved by the Annual Conference at Blackpool on the recommendation of the National Executive Committee.

In addition, the minimum affiliation fee has been increased from £6 to £30, the equivalent of fees on 800 members. This was purposely aimed at Constituency Labour Parties in Labour strongholds with small memberships.

The increases create problems for all local parties, big and small, and the Annual Conference rejected a proposal that the Individual Member's subscription should be raised to 9d. a month.

The case for the increase was made by Mr. J. S. Keys, for the Woolwich Labour Party, and the National Executive case against by Mr. J. Cooper. Here is a summary of their speeches to the delegates.

WOOLWICH SAYS YES

WE have had a very interesting debate this afternoon on increases in affiliation fees, I represent at this conference one of the largest parties in the country, and we have a card vote here of 12,000, so that will give you an idea of our size.

We have throughout the years been able to maintain in Woolwich a very large membership. I know we are not the only party that does that, and that there are other parties, like South Lewisham and Taunton, that do the same.

We have heard some people talk here about wanting a good policy in order to get a good membership. I agree, but I do want to say that we in Woolwich year by year since the war have increased our membership; even when this party was at its lowest ebb we were making new members. This year up to now we have made 1,200 new members.

That proves, I think, that if you have method and proper collecting machinery you can get the money for this Party from individual membership. We believe that it ought to be the aim of every constituency party to make the main source of its income individual membership.

I know it is very popular to run football pools, sweeps and so on. We do that on occasions, but only as a sideline. Our main

object at all times is to make the main source of our income individual membership.

This amendment which has been put forward by us is asking you to agree that the minimum membership subscription should be increased to 9d. We, as you will understand, have put that amendment down after very careful study. Naturally, with a big membership such as ours, we do not want to lose a large section of it, and therefore we would not take this step of asking the conference to agree to an amendment like this if we thought we were going to lose income by doing so.

Last year our income from membership subscriptions was £2,487. That is not enough. We are faced with this increased affiliation fee to be paid to Head Office, which in our case is going to amount to about £150 a year.

Other enormous increases in costs are facing us day by day—paper, printing, supplies of all kinds, even our chaps' salaries. Another big item of expenditure for local parties, of course, is the increase in rates on premises, which those of us who have premises have to meet. All parties at the present time are going through a very difficult period so far as finance is concerned.

Now let us have a look at the subscriptions that are now paid compared with, say, 1938, when the individual members' subscription was 4½d. The decline in the value of money since then, taking the pound as worth 20s. in 1938, is such that it is now worth about 7s. 8d. We should really be asking, not for 9d. minimum subscription, but for 1s.

Most trade unions have had to increase their subscriptions, many by as much as 4d. a week.

We have found, going round our members, that they are expecting an increase. We also carried out the experiment of asking members to pay 9d., when we were on our membership campaign, and we found that a lot are quite prepared to pay it.

With regard to the old age pensioners scheme we do not want to change that at all, but there are many hundreds of old age pensioners in my party who do not want to be what they call second-rate members, and who are still paying their full membership subscriptions.

I do not think it unreasonable to ask anybody, any individual member of the

party, to give the price of 60 Players' Weights a year to be a member of this great movement.

Therefore I plead with conference to accept this amendment; it may be said that a member can pay what he likes, and I agree that many do pay above the minimum, but we must have the backing of the annual conference for a message to the membership throughout the country that this is an essential step if we are going to get the Labour Party returned to power in the next election.

Before I leave this rostrum I want to make one little plea. We have elected a new treasurer this week, and I would ask him with all sincerity to use his wonderful eloquence to try to persuade parties not only to increase their membership, but also to overhaul their collecting machinery and to see to it that when we come to conference next year we shall not have this decline of 90,000 members.

EXECUTIVE SAYS NO

Broadly, the main problem in regard to membership contributions is not necessarily the rate at which one must pay, but the job of getting it in. I would commend the wonderful job of work that Woolwich have done in building up steadily to a point between 11,000 and 12,000 members.

The National Executive naturally treat very seriously a proposal such as this from a constituency where they have so much success. But I think it would be true to say that on an average, although the total contribution per annum per member should be 6s., the more successful parties collect between 4s. and 5s. per member, and the less successful much less than that. Therefore the National Executive feel that if you do increase the amount to 9d. there is great doubt as to what the real practical result would be.



Now, the Woolwich representative, in moving this amendment, said that they had taken a survey and there were quite a number willing to pay 9d. per month instead of 6d. The subscription is a minimum subscription. There are many people in the Party who pay well over the minimum. Therefore it seems to us that the way to meet this position is to try on a voluntary basis to expand the number of those people who are willing to pay more than the 6d. per month. But we are doubtful about trying to make this mandatory by amending the rule, and for that reason, with regret, we ask conference to reject the amendment.

LOOKING FOR ELECTORS WHO'VE MOVED

MR. SIMS, in his article on removals in December's *Labour Organiser*, pointed out that we may be faced with fighting a General Election on the old Register, with information that is anything up to 16 months old.

He emphasised the importance of tracing the electors on the 'C' lists, and suggested that parties concentrate some of their efforts on finding out where these people have gone.

As this is a constituency where Labour holds the seat by just over 1,000 votes, every elector traced is of importance to us, and I have been giving this problem some thought recently. I have come to the conclusion that it is much easier to find the removals by using the 'B' lists, which tell us where electors have moved to, rather than try to find out where they have gone.

For a start, to work on 'C' lists means that someone has to relate every name on the lists to the old Register, to find the old address. This in itself is a big job.

"B" List

Then the old address has to be visited to find out if the new occupants know where the old occupants live now. The 'B' lists contain this information and it is much easier to call on people at their new addresses than to try to find out at the other end where they have gone.

This is of particular importance where building is going on, as the 'B' list, in some cases, may be nearly as big as the original Register.

To try out my idea, I have done some canvassing for approximately six hours around my office, using the 'B' list in conjunction with the existing Register. Although this canvassing has been done during the afternoon, which is a time when most people think canvassing is a waste of time, the results I have obtained show differently and, also, bear out my idea about the 'B' lists.

I have canvassed 97 electors, and issued 29 forms R.P.F.8 for change of address, 16 of these are for electors who have moved in from other parishes in this constituency.

I have cross-referenced these internal removals with the existing Register, and I am

keeping lists of them, so that the information can be transferred when the new Register comes out. 20 others are removals within the same parish. These also have been cross-referenced and listed.

Postal Votes

Information about the 13 electors who have moved in from other constituencies (and to whom Postal Vote forms have been issued) has been sent on to their old constituencies.

This means that 36 people on our own 'C' lists have been traced and 13 people from other areas have been found. As well as informing local parties in this constituency of the results of my canvass, I have asked that houses not on either the 'B' lists or the

current Register be canvassed.

If the people have not registered, we can follow them up next time; if the houses are new, the occupants will, unless they were previously under age or disqualified for some reason, be on Registers somewhere and will remain on those Registers until February 1958. They need postal votes in most cases.

Mr. Underhill, the West Midlands Regional Organiser, has undertaken to pass on to other constituencies any information I send in to him from the Meriden constituency about people moving in.

If other parties and regional offices could co-operate on the same lines we should have a steady flow of information about removals passing between constituencies.

D. K. ROBBINS

Help to 'Marginals'

IN the *Labour Organiser* last February details were published of the scheme for giving help from national funds to the marginal constituencies.

It was hoped the help would make possible the employment of 30 additional full-time constituency agents and would enable 70 marginal constituencies to continue employing their full-time agents. In fact, 27 new full-time agents have been appointed in marginal constituencies and eight appointments are proceeding and should be made within the next week or two.

Several of the new appointments are to constituencies where previously there were full-time agents, but where the agency had been allowed to lapse because of shortage of funds.

One constituency has advertised for an agent on three occasions and has been unable to secure suitable applications. Several constituencies refuse to consider the appointment of an agent despite the offer of substantial help.

Organising Assistants

The scheme made provision for the employment of 13 organising assistants and these have been appointed, all in the direct employment of the National Executive Committee. Four work in the London and Middlesex region, four in the North Western region, two in the South Western region, two in Scotland and one in Yorkshire.

With the appointment of the new constituency agents and organising assistants, nearly all the marginal constituencies in the country are now getting some form of professional organising help, though some old established agencies in other constituencies have collapsed.

Nearly all regions have organised conferences and week-end schools for the training of agents and election workers and a full-time training course has been started at Head Office. The full-time course lasts for three months and 14 students have taken it, nearly all of whom have received agency appointments.

Marked Register

The help given to reach the aim of a marked register in all marginal constituencies has included the provision of canvass and committee room material, the employment of full- and part-time canvassers and the services of members of the National Association of Labour Students' Organisations during vacations.

This summer 114 students joined the N.A.L.S.O. canvassing teams for a total of 429 man weeks. In addition to gathering information for the marked register, the teams enrolled over 24,000 new members.

The National Executive Committee has been examining amendments proposed by the Regional Organisers to the scheme for this year, but these are not likely to result in any big departure from the scheme originally adopted.

THE article in the May *Labour Organiser* on 'Party Business Meetings' quite rightly draws attention to the much-neglected side of party management—accounting and auditing. While in no way questioning the integrity of treasurers and auditors, their reports are usually quite inadequate and unacceptable by professional standards. Budgeting is often quite elementary or non-existent.

Unfortunately, when referring to the annual statement of accounts and the relevant auditors' report at the annual meeting, it is quite easy for persons not trained to a proper appreciation of accounting and auditing techniques to go astray over the requirements and the procedure.



The most frequent error is in giving the name of 'Balance Sheet' to any financial statement which has a column of figures on either side and whose totals agree. A Balance Sheet proper is a special form of financial statement which shows the assets and the liabilities of an organisation.

Let it be made quite clear that there are *three* types of financial statement which must be presented by the treasurer to the annual meeting. The three statements are:

(1) Receipts and Payments Account.

This is a classified summary of all cash transactions during the year showing on one side the cash balance at the 1st January to which is added all the cash received during the year, and on the other side the cash spent during the year to which is added the cash balance at the 31st December.

Being a statement of cash only, it includes all receipts and payments whether or not they are in respect of that particular year, and whether they are of a revenue or capital nature, provided they are actually paid or received during that year.

A Receipts and Payments Account, showing only the cash position, is absolutely inadequate, and it is impossible to get a true view of the year's results. Therefore an Income and Expenditure Account must be prepared.

(2) Income and Expenditure Account.

This is a classified summary of all revenue items relating to the year, irrespective of whether the income has

KEEPING T Account

Keeping proper account of the
job upon which the efficient
Ron Faulding, of Head Of
professional adv

actually been received or the expenditure paid during the year. The statement, therefore, takes into consideration unpaid bills, depreciation and payments made in advance.

In addition, the statement excludes items relating to previous, or subsequent financial years and excludes all capital items, even though these items have been received and paid during the year. The final balance on the accounts represents the true surplus or deficit for the year, that is, the excess of income over expenditure or vice versa.

(3) Balance Sheet. Whereas the income and expenditure account covers the whole twelve months of the year, a Balance Sheet is a statement of financial affairs on one particular day—the 31st December. On one side it shows the assets and on the other side it shows the liabilities and the balance of the capital account.



The assets will include all property and equipment (shown at cost, from which is deducted the appropriate depreciation to date), stocks of stationery and literature, sundry debtors including amounts paid in advance, and cash in hand and at the Bank.

The liabilities will include outstanding unpaid debts and bank overdraft if there is one. The Capital Account or its alternate name—Accumulated Fund—is made up of transfers of all the annual

E PARTY'S Straight

the organisation depends.
Finance Department, gives
how to do it.

surpluses and deficits from the formation up to date and represents the 'net worth' of the organisation.

The balance at the 1st January therefore represents the excess of assets over liabilities at that date and to this figure is added the surplus on the Income and Expenditure Account or if a deficit, it is deducted. Transferring the balance on the Income and Expenditure Account to the Capital Account enables both sides of the Balance Sheet to agree in total and it is thus complete.



If these three statements are not presented to the annual meeting the meeting must be adjourned until they are available. If this item is omitted the annual meeting is uncompleted and can only be adjourned until the accounts are adopted.

After preparing the three statements the treasurer will ask the auditors to examine the books and the accounts. When they have done this they must write and sign their report on a master copy of the accounts for inclusion with the minutes of the annual meeting. Copies of the accounts and the relevant auditors' report should be duplicated for circulation to all delegates attending the meeting.

Auditing is a specialised job requiring not only integrity, but also a sound knowledge of accounting and of the technique of auditing. So often it seems that so long as someone is appointed as auditor and that someone signs the accounts, then justice

appears to have been done and the conscience satisfied.

Many auditors appear to believe that any entry 'in black and white' is half-true and that a document, almost any piece of paper, supporting that entry is the other half of truth. The audit is usually a mere examination of the entries in the books and there is no enquiry as to what should be in the books.



The frequent result of an audit is the writing of the archaic phrase 'Audited and found correct'. This phrase, while perhaps conveying little but otherwise acceptable to the uninitiated, is really quite meaningless and useless.

The auditors should report:

- (1) whether they have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of their knowledge and belief were necessary for their audit;
- (2) whether in their opinion proper books and records of account have been kept;
- (3) whether the Balance Sheet and the Income and Expenditure Account and the Receipts and Payments Account are in agreement with the books of account;
- (4) whether in their opinion:
 - (a) the Balance Sheet gives a true and fair view of the financial state of affairs as at the 31st December;
 - (b) the Income and Expenditure Account gives a true and fair view of the income and expenditure for the whole of the financial year;
 - (c) the Receipts and Payments Account gives a true and fair view of the receipts and payments for the whole of the financial year.

Where the auditors feel themselves unable to accept any item in the accounts they must say so in their report—the phrase being 'subject to . . . (here follows the item) . . . , in our opinion, the Balance Sheet gives a true and fair view etc.'. The item in dispute must be clearly and precisely stated—an incomplete statement requiring further explanation is unsatisfactory.



While it is no formal part of the auditors' duty to criticise the financial policy of the party, this being for the members themselves to deal with, any observations made by the auditors ought to be carefully considered. Because of their detailed examination of the books and records they frequently are in a

better position than that of a layman to pass comment on the management of the party's finances.

At the annual meeting the master copy of the accounts should be available for inspection by members. This master copy will be signed by the treasurer and chairman of the party and will have the auditors' written report and signatures on it.

The procedure to be followed in the presentation of the accounts is quite straightforward.

It is now the practice, as a courtesy gesture, to call upon the auditors to read their written report — and when this has been done the chairman should thank the auditors for their services.

The auditors' report is attached to the master copy of the accounts and as they are the only persons able to express an opinion on them no motion is required to approve or adopt the auditors' report.

Where any member raises a question on the auditors' report itself, the chairman will call upon the auditors to answer.

The chairman will now 'move the adoption of the accounts for 195— as circulated', and usually a seconder is required to the motion. It is quite unnecessary to read out the items on the accounts, if they are in the hands of delegates, but it is customary to give the treasurer, at this point, the opportunity of making comments on the financial affairs of the party.

* * *

The meeting is now open to the members to discuss the accounts. When discussion is ended the chairman will put the motion to the vote of the meeting.

If the motion is not passed the accounts are in no way affected. They are the accounts of the party duly audited for that year whether the members like them or not. To vote against the adoption is tantamount to a vote of censure or of no confidence in the officers, the executive committee and, in the last analysis, the party itself.

Where there is no confidence in the officers, this will be reflected later in the proceedings of the annual meeting in the election of new officers and a new Executive Committee.

Where a vote of censure is involved it is within the power of the annual meeting to make a future safeguard by adopting a standing order that any expenditure of over, say, £1, shall first be approved by the Executive Committee. As the minutes of the Executive Committee are reported to the General Com-

mittee, expenditure is scrutinised as and when it occurs.

Where a party should be unfortunate enough to have malpractice with its finances the action to be taken, obviously will depend upon the circumstances. In local government items not passed by the auditors are surcharged upon the members of the council, that is, the councillors have to bear the expense out of their own pockets.

* * *

When taking action against individuals, be it restitution of funds misapplied and dismissal from office and/or expulsion from the party, it must be remembered that the party itself and its members are partly to blame for not instituting adequate safeguards and being negligent in the management of their financial affairs.

While electioneering and policy-making may have more 'appeal' and 'glamour' than the more responsible matters of finance, both these activities come to naught if a party has no funds to carry on its day-to-day work, and no reserves for development and for contingencies.

Any improvements in 'organisation' are nullified if there is no corresponding improvement in the financial resources and in the financial management of the party. It really is audacious to pretend to be able to control a local government authority when the affairs of a local party are not properly managed.

Proper attention must be given to financial matters by a local party through regular monthly financial statements, budgetary control, and correctly drawn-up annual accounts—proper attention is essential to the effective management of the party.

The columns of the *Labour Organiser* are open to anyone with something interesting and informative to say on those specific subjects in which the magazine deals.

Many readers may not realise that the new idea which they have conceived and put into successful practice will most likely be of value to their counterparts in other places. Therefore, if you have developed something new, either on an old problem or a new one, write it up and let the rest of the Labour movement have the benefit of your knowledge.

Don't forget the deadline for the receipt of all contributions is the 15th of the month for publication the following month.

POSTERS ALONG THE A.2 ROAD

by Frank Shepherd

EVERYONE knows the A.2 road.

It's the road which thousands of war-weary men travelled home from the bloodstained beaches of Normandy. It's the road along which thousands of holiday makers travel towards the playgrounds of Europe.

Everyone knows the A.2—the road which countless lorries take to the bustling industrial centres of the Medway and Thames estuaries.

At Blackpool

It started at the Blackpool conference last October. Darwin (Lancs.) and Gillingham (Kent) Constituency Labour Parties had submitted resolutions in almost identical terms deploring the lack of adequate publicity given to the shortcomings of the Tory Government and urging the National Executive Committee 'to get large advertisements of Labour's Aims and Tory Infamy placed on National hoardings'.

Weighty matters of policy occupied the attentions of conference and, unfortunately, the Darwin-Gillingham Composite Resolution could not be debated.

Meanwhile, in the tea bar of the Winter Gardens, several Party agents from Kent got together. 'There are signs,' they said, 'that thanks to the Small Lotteries Act some parties will have more money than ever before. We ought to spend some of this money in a new endeavour to put over our policy and to win more seats. We want posters on the A.2 and other important roads in Kent.

'We want good posters, well designed. It is essential that we have a continuity of site bookings.'

County Scheme

John Beadle, agent for Gravesend, agreed to make enquiries about the cost of display and production. It was hoped to produce a scheme to cover the whole county of Kent by New Year's Day 1957, but the task of promoting a scheme of such dimensions could not be rushed.

Just before Christmas, it was decided that there was insufficient time to overcome all the financial ramifications of a county-wide

coverage of 16-sheet posters commencing on January 1st, but Gillingham, Gravesend, and Thanet constituency parties agreed to produce a pilot scheme. Percy Clark of Head Office Publicity Department was called in to advise.

This new poster publicity campaign captured the imagination of several people within a matter of hours, and soon a circular in the following terms was issued by Morgan Phillips to Constituency and Local Labour Parties:

We are designing a series of 16-sheet posters which are to be used at intervals of six weeks over the next 12 months. This is to meet the needs of a special scheme in the Southern Region. The posters, however, will be of National and not Regional character.

It would be possible to supply copies of the poster at 17s. 6d. each, including carriage, to any Party wishing to make use of the service. No stocks will be kept at Transport House. Only orders placed in advance can be fulfilled.

The first poster appears with the words, 'Labour wishes you a peaceful 1957 and a better Government soon', and will be available for posting by January 1st. Orders for this poster would have to be received in about a week's time and application should be made to—Publications Department, Transport House, Smith Square, London, S.W.1.

Cheaper Price

The more posters produced, the cheaper will be the price. It already appears that the demand for these posters will be so great that the next issue will be available at 12s. 6d. per copy.

It has been anticipated that 100 16-sheet posters displayed for 12 months on important roads in Kent, including a change of poster every five/six weeks, would cost not more than an average of £25 per site per annum.

It may be that the pilot scheme launched in these three Kent constituencies will not only eventually spread to the whole of Kent but possibly as Labour stalwarts tramp and ride along the highways of Britain they will see other messages from the Labour Movement to cheer their hearts and strengthen their resolve.

This Yorkshire town has had a Liberal Council for nearly 90 years. Alderman Arthur Gardiner, until recently Labour Agent, explains the reason.

Huddersfield's Problem

THE evolution of the Labour and Socialist movement in Huddersfield is a story of great interest to all who have played any part in the upward march of the workers.

My first connection with the movement was in the General Election of 1906, when I walked into the central committee rooms of the Labour candidate and timidly asked if there was any way in which I could help.

I was then a lad of 17 years who, many months prior to this election, had been fired with enthusiasm by the speeches of such old stalwarts as Ben Tillet, Bill Gee, H. M. Hyndman, Ramsay MacDonald, and a host of other socialist propagandists.

At that period, all elections in Huddersfield, Parliamentary and municipal, were sponsored by the I.L.P., who had a particularly strong central branch.

With my limited political experience I was sure we were going to win, and it was a bitter disappointment when we were beaten by the Liberal candidate by 489 votes in a three-cornered fight.

That election was held on 15th January, 1906, and on 28th November in the same year a by-election took place, owing to the appointment of the successful Liberal as a Commissioner of Railways. We had the same candidate, T. Russell Williams, but again we were defeated, by 340 votes, the Tory candidate being at the bottom of the poll.

Russell Smart

These two Parliamentary elections were not the first that the Huddersfield party had fought, for in 1895 they put forward H. Russell Smart, who polled 1,595 votes, the Liberal being successful and the Tory second.

The hills and valleys in and around Huddersfield are steeped in the old radical tradition and the inhabitants played a great part in the Luddite rising and in the fight for the Charter. This, perhaps, explains to some extent the peculiar political situation in this town.

In 1924 we had a Labour Member of Parliament, James H. Hudson, a Labour

Mayor, and not another Labour representative on any public body.

The borough council has a Liberal majority and has had ever since the incorporation of the Borough in 1868. True, the Liberal representatives to-day do not in any way exhibit any radical sentiments and it would be difficult for anyone who did not know their political allegiance to distinguish them from the Tories.

Socialist Propaganda

In the earlier days socialist propaganda has been poured into this town, and although we have a Labour Member of Parliament in the East constituency, J. P. W. Mallalieu (an exceptionally good constituency member, who will be holding his 100th 'Report from Westminster' meeting in March), we have still only 17 Labour members out of a total of 60 members on the borough council, the majority being Liberals.

One of the reasons for this is that the Liberals and Tories have an agreement not to fight each other where there is a Labour candidate in the field. In the Parliamentary elections the Tories fight in the East constituency with Liberal support and the Liberals fight in the West constituency with Tory support. In the municipal elections the same thing happens, Liberals speaking on Tory platforms and Tories on Liberal platforms.

In view of the above position, it is interesting to note that we won the Parliamentary seat when we were a single constituency in 1923, 1924, 1929 and 1945, and since becoming a divided borough we have won the East in 1950, 1951 and 1955, the Liberals holding the West constituency.

There has been a full-time agent since 1918. I took over that position in 1926 and retired last year. During the whole of that 29 years the Huddersfield party has never once finished on the wrong side of the balance sheet, in spite of the fact that we have never had a sponsored candidate.

In 1926 we decided to publish a monthly journal of our own, and the *Huddersfield Citizen* was born. Our initial capital was raised by subscriptions from members and a

few grants from trade union branches. We published an eight-page paper, with a circulation of 6,000, and a small army of willing workers to see to the distribution in the various wards.

The price of the paper is 2d. and at times we have published a 30,000 issue for free distribution, quite apart from 'election specials'.

With the exception of a period during the Second World War, when the Government closed us down owing to paper shortage, the *Huddersfield Citizen* will, in December 1956, have been in existence for 30 years. And without it costing the Party a single penny. Unfortunately the circulation is now not as high as it was.

Cheap Elections

In the organisation of our Parliamentary elections, the Labour electors of Huddersfield have been trained to pay for their politics. Although in most of the Parliamentary elections of which I have had control we have started without a penny in the kitty, we have always made a good profit on the election.

In looking through some of the old 'election returns' I find that we commenced the fight in 1929 with nothing in the election fund. The election cost us £565 2s. 11d. and the income was £690 5s. 11d., a profit of £125 3s. Among the items of income was £212 7s. 10d. from collections at public meetings, £59 2s. 6d. from collecting cards and £115 18s. 4d. from subscriptions from individuals, a total of £387 8s. 8d.

In the 1931 election, £136 12s. 6d. was collected at public meetings, in 1935, £131, in 1945, £143, and from £100 to £150 in 1950, 1951 and 1955. I quote these figures to point to a source of revenue at public meetings, which in many places is not tapped.

Now that there is a divided borough with two constituencies to provide for, the financial position is becoming more difficult. Though each constituency has its own officers and organisation, with adequate representation to the central body, there is still, among the older members, a hankering for the old organisation, where, they state, we were one big, happy family.

Municipal Elections

The municipal elections are organised and conducted by the Central Labour Party. The procedure is that soon after an election has taken place, ward committees and affiliated organisations are invited to nominate for the panel of prospective candidates, which is then brought before a meeting of the General

Committee, who have the opportunity of objecting to any of the nominees.

The nominees are then interviewed by a 'Vetting Committee' who have, without having to explain why, full power to refuse any nomination as candidate. The list of 'vetted' nominees are then forwarded to the ward committees in good time for them to make their choice before the election, so that the candidate may become known in the ward he is to contest.

During the campaign, both in local and national elections, the policy is to get as near to 100 per cent canvass as is possible. The register is cut up and pasted on a specially printed canvass card, which before the canvasser sets out has been marked from the 'marked up' register of the previous year. This gives the canvasser a guide as to how the elector voted in the last election.

New canvassers are, if alone, sent out with an old hand, but if there are two new canvassers who desire to go together, they are allocated a district where there is a good Labour vote. This gives them encouragement to report on the following night for another spell of canvassing.

Favourable Markings

The 'favourable' markings are then transferred from the canvass cards to the 'marking off' sheets. This is done while the canvass is proceeding, so that by the eve of the poll all 'favourables' are already on the 'marking off' sheets ready for the polling on the following day.

The three main industries are textiles, engineering and chemicals, in that order and evening voting is by far the heaviest, but the committee rooms are staffed and 'checkers' are taking polling numbers the whole of the day.

We find it beneficial to hold meetings of election helpers prior to polling day to instruct them in polling day duties.

My greatest yearning is for a return of the old enthusiasm and the comradeship of days that are gone.

POSTAL VOTING

A pamphlet giving full details of postal and proxy voting. A leaflet designed for distribution.

THE POSTAL VOTE (12-page pamphlet)

One copy 4d.; 12 copies 1/8; 50 copies 5/-

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10/- per 1000 copies

Both post free

THE LABOUR PARTY — PUBLICATIONS DEPARTMENT

Have a Good Annual Meeting

DURING the weeks ahead many Constituency Labour Parties will be holding what should be the most important meeting of the year—the annual meeting.

An annual meeting is no ordinary meeting. It is another milestone in the history of a party, and as such its preparation and the atmosphere in which it is held are of tremendous importance.

In the old and less sophisticated days, the annual meeting of many Constituency Labour Parties, particularly in county areas, was an event to be looked forward to with joyful anticipation. It was not just an important meeting, but developed into a real family 'get together' after the completion of business.

While the delegates met to review the work of the past year, plan for the future, and elect officials for the coming year, the women-folk would prepare a 'proper spread' which would be followed by a happy reunion social. Held in such an atmosphere of comradeship, an annual meeting is lifted out of the ordinary rut. Every Constituency Labour Party should endeavour to make the annual meeting a red-letter day.

It may not be possible for many constituencies to make arrangements on the lines already mentioned, but there is no reason why every Constituency Labour Party should not plan in such a way that the annual meeting engages the attention of the key workers throughout the constituency.

Not Haphazard

There should be no haphazardness about the planning of this meeting. The Model Rules include a clause making provision for the annual meeting and lay down that 28 days' notice shall be given. That is, of course, the minimum notice, and the Rules and Standing Orders of many parties make specific provisions and lay down when the first notice convening the annual meeting shall be sent out.

This notice indicating date, time and place of the meeting should be accompanied by duplicated or printed delegation, nomination and resolution forms—if possible in different

colours. This may all seem very formal but unless such forms are supplied organisations will submit information on all sizes and types of notepaper.

Uniformity is a help both to the organisations invited to take part in the annual meeting and the officials who are handling the business. Businesslike methods pay in the long run; they not only save time and create the right atmosphere but encourage organisations to regard the annual meeting as an event of outstanding importance.

A final notice should be sent at least 28 days prior to the meeting, and should be accompanied by an agenda, copy of the annual report, the accounts, which to be quite correct should include a Receipts and Payments Account, Income and Expenditure Account and the Balance Sheet, list of nominations for Officers and Executive Committee members, and a copy of the resolutions.

Provide Documents

Every organisation entitled to representation and every delegate should receive copies of all these documents. There is nothing more unsatisfactory than to attend an annual meeting without having received all the relevant papers. It is important that every delegate should have an opportunity of studying all the business which will be before the annual meeting.

There are a number of parties which are to be warmly congratulated upon the presentation of their annual reports and accounts. Every year we receive at Head Office a number of most attractively printed reports which are a pleasure to read.

Every party cannot afford the heavy cost of printing annual meeting documents, but some of the duplicated reports which we receive are of a very high standard, and the cost of producing a report of this kind is within the means of most constituencies.

Furthermore, every delegate should receive a credential card which should be retained for the year. The card should have a detachable portion bearing the declaration of loyalty and the delegate's signature. This portion should be handed to the steward at the annual meeting and retained by the secretary throughout the year.

Some parties are much too lackadaisical in

the way that they accept the names of delegates. All the delegates attending the Annual Conference of the Labour Party have to sign a declaration of loyalty, printed on the credential card, which is signed and handed to the stewards at the opening session. What is good enough for the Annual Conference of the Labour Party is good enough for the annual meeting of every Constituency Labour Party.

Delegate's Term

It might be as well to remind all parties that the term of office of a delegate extends from, and is inclusive of, the annual meeting to the ordinary General Committee meeting next prior to the annual meeting of the following year. This means that the delegates entitled to attend and take part in the business of the annual meeting are the delegates entitled to serve on the General Committee for the coming year. Any officers, or Executive Committee members, who have not been re-appointed as delegates would attend the annual meeting as they are responsible for presenting the annual report and the accounts, but they would have no voting power.

The agenda for the annual meeting should be on the following lines:

- (1) *Chairman's address.*
- (2) *Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on (For information only).*
- (3) *The Executive Committee's Annual Report.*
- (4) *The adoption of the accounts for the year ended.....*
- (5) *Resolutions.*
- (6) *Elections of Officers and the Executive Committee.*
- (7) *Any other annual business.*

It is an excellent idea to include an address from the Member of Parliament, or prospective Parliamentary candidate, and if such a speech is to be made it should be included on the agenda after the item 'Elections of Officers and the Executive Committee'.

The question often arises as to whether the minutes of an annual meeting should be read, signed and dated at the General Committee meeting following the annual meeting or left for presentation until the next annual meeting. They should be presented for accuracy at the next ordinary General Committee meeting and then presented to the next annual meeting for information only.

Another query which is often posed is whether it is correct to take nominations from the floor of the annual meeting, if they have already been invited in writing. Provided

sufficient nominations have been received by the closing date, nominations should not be taken from the floor.

If insufficient nominations have been received for particular offices, or for the Executive Committee, the persons nominated within the specified time should be declared elected. Nominations can then be taken from the floor, and voted upon if necessary, to fill the vacancies.

It will be noted that the item 'Election of Officers and the Executive Committee' appears well down on the agenda. This should be so, as it is logical to conclude all the business of an annual meeting which concerns the past year's work, before the election of new officers and the Executive Committee takes place.

Old Chairman

Last year's chairman should preside until annual meeting business is completed.

There are parties which try to deal with the current month's business at the annual meeting. Ordinary business should never be taken alongside of annual meeting business.

If the current month's work must be dealt with on the day of the annual meeting, the correct procedure is to conclude the annual meeting agenda and then the chairman should call for a motion that the annual meeting dissolve itself into an ordinary General Committee meeting.

The newly elected chairman, having by this time been introduced to the meeting, would then proceed to deal with the agenda covering monthly business.

It is said that 'If a thing is worth doing it is worth doing well'. That adage is particularly true of the organisation of an annual meeting, which is the day in the year when we look back, take stock, rejoice over success, criticise shortcomings and plan for the future wellbeing of our Party.

QUOTE L99777

THE Labour Party now has a Co-operative Society Trading Number. By occasionally quoting L99777 when purchasing at Co-ops in the national membership scheme, individual members and affiliated organisations can help the Party's national funds.

Membership Campaign Successes

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

IN September, four students canvassed selected villages in Cambridgeshire. In a week they enrolled 387 new members.

The most striking success was achieved at Isleham, a village on the edge of the Fens (electorate 939). In an afternoon and evening 286 electors were contacted, and 108 of them joined the Party.

Nearly all of them paid the first subscription. Of these seven were prepared to collect subscriptions and 11 others were reported as being exceptionally keen to work actively.

Within a few weeks collecting books were issued to six of the new members and additional subscriptions were soon rolling in.

An abundance of enthusiasm was shown at the inaugural meeting of the Local Labour Party in November, attended by 35 people. The offices were taken up quickly. Besides the chairman, vice-chairman, secretary and treasurer, we elected a social secretary and an assistant secretary. The latter will be responsible for co-ordinating the work of collectors and thus maintain and increase membership.

In addition, nine other members were elected, making a full committee of 15.

Thirteen members attended the first committee meeting when plans were made for a members' social get-together, and future political activities. By this time, as a result of efforts made by collectors and others, membership had risen to 131. It is likely to increase still more.

Isleham, unorganised for many years, shows signs of developing into the largest and most active party in the county.

CHELMSFORD

THE Chelmsford Constituency Labour Party received the membership campaign suggestion from Douglas Garnett with the usual mixed feelings, but a band of canvassers, under the guidance of the agent, met and discussed plans. A special leaflet was designed and printed and these were distributed in the area to be canvassed a few evenings before the canvass.

The work soon showed promising results. Areas with little or no membership sprang to life: the membership of various parties soon grew, and responsive and progressive committees formed themselves into solid working

units of the constituency party. Total of new members is now 650.

In the Borough of Chelmsford, amid the new private housing schemes, a new council estate is fast taking shape. This is in the West ward which regularly returned six Tory councillors to the council. We saw that if this ward, including the new estate, was canvassed and organised, we could return Labour councillors.

As it happened, the secretary of the East ward obtained one of the council houses. He undertook to form a party, and later became its secretary. Having been a member of the canvassing team, he decided to work along similar lines in the West ward. After trying to obtain local help without success, he set out alone. Within six months there were 250 members and 13 collectors.

These members helped in the municipal elections in May and returned one Labour councillor and only lost the other seat by 36 votes to the retiring Tory mayor.

The elections over, a few volunteers helped with the membership campaign and set themselves a target of 1,000 members for the ward. Using as far as possible the marked register, so as not to waste time, the membership grew and grew.

The West ward party is now 500 strong, with 25 collectors, and a complete list of helpers who will poll check, knock-up, and deliver, and various other jobs required at election times. Members have found time to organise and work in a by-election in a poorly-organised ward. Here, with help from the Constituency Labour Party, the Tory majority was reduced from 400 to 100.

Canvassing for members, we found, can be quite a comradely competition and quite interesting. It was found necessary to explain to prospective members that they were not bound to attend meetings, but later some came to the meetings and others volunteered to help the Party in many ways.

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NEW CANDIDATES AND AGENTS

Candidates

THE following were endorsed as prospective Parliamentary Candidates by the National Executive Committee recently :

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Macclesfield | Mr. J. F. Bex |
| Bodm.n | Mr. T. F. Mitchell |
| Harwich | Mr. W. O. J. Robinson |
| Cheltenham | Dr. K. G. Pendse |
| Petersfield | Mr. J. S. P. Davey |
| East Herts | Mr. S. J. Bidwell |
| Ashford | Mr. R. G. Ward |
| Gravesend | Mr. V. Mischo |
| Melton | Mr. E. J. Masters |
| Woolwich West | Mr. W. Hamling |
| Spelthorne | Mr. J. P. Carruthers |
| Wembley South | Mr. E. Mackenzie |
| Oxford | Mr. L. N. Anderton |
| Bury St. Edmunds | Mrs. A. M. N. Walter |
| Handsworth | Mr. A. Murie |
| Sutton | Mr. R. S. G. Hattersley |
| Denbigh | Mr. J. R. J. Lewis |



CO-OPERATIVE PARTY CANDIDATES RUNNING IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE LABOUR PARTY

| | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| Luton | Mr. C. R. Fenton |
| Epping | Mr. D. F. W. Ford |

Agents

THE following Agency appointments have been approved by the National Executive Committee :

MR. J. C. CARTWRIGHT to **Reigate**. Since October 1955 John Cartwright has been full-time Assistant Agent to the Dorking C.L.P. He was Assistant Agent in the Chertsey Constituency at the 1955 General Election. He is 22.

MR. J. STUART-COLE to **Wythenshawe**. Aged 40, a member of the Party for 20 years, James Stuart-Cole, an engineer, has been appointed Agent to the Wythenshawe C.L.P. He has held various party offices including that of constituency party secretary.

MR. S. F. DUNCE to **Dulwich**. Stanley Dunce, aged 39, has been a full-time Agent for seven years, serving at Wycombe and Southwark. Since 1946 he has assisted, in a full-time capacity, at a number of Parliamentary by-elections in and around London.

MR. P. JACKSON to **Devonport**. Peter Jackson returns to his native heath — after serving as assistant organiser to the Birmingham Borough Labour Party for a period of 2½ years. In recent months he has also been secretary of the Selly Oak (Birmingham) Constituency Labour Party. He is 25.

MR. J. A. J. LIDDALL to **Taunton**. The vacancy at Taunton has been filled by James Liddall, aged 56, who has held various offices in the Party during the past 10 years; he has been chairman of the C.L.P. and for a short period during 1954 its secretary.

MR. R. LOVERIDGE to **Chippenham**. An architect's assistant, Raymond Loveridge, aged 23, has been a member of the Party for seven years at Cheltenham. Active in the youth work of the Party, he was, for a time, a member of the National Consultative Committee of the League of Youth.

MR. V. G. MARSHALL to **North Somerset**. A clerk in the ship-repairing industry, Victor Marshall, aged 37, has been a member of the Party for the past 6½ years in the Falmouth and Camborne constituency. He recently contributed an article for the *Labour Organiser* on the use of maps for planning Party work.

MR. V. R. PHILLIPS to **Peterborough**. Aged 34, a locomotive fireman on British Railways, Vivian Phillips has been secretary of the Isle of Ely C.L.P. for a number of years, acting as agent at the 1955 General Election. He takes up his appointment as from the 1st January, 1957.

MR. J. A. STRONELL to **Rochester and Chatham**. Bert Stronell moves from the safe Labour constituency of North Islington to take over the agency in the marginal constituency of Rochester and Chatham. Aged 41, he has been a full-time agent since 1948, previously having been employed at Brentford and Chiswick and Mitcham.

Situations Vacant

INCE C.L.P. invites applications for the post of full-time Secretary-Agent. Salary and conditions in accordance with the National Agreement. Application forms can be obtained from **Mr. R. Belben, 311 Wigan Road, Bryn, near Wigan, Lancs.**, to whom they should be returned not later than 31st January, 1957.

ELECTION ENVELOPES

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| 50,000 — 99,000 | | | 18/3 |
| 100,000 — 249,000 | | | 17/11 |
| 250,000 and over | | | 17/5 |

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